

MESSAGES BY WIRE.

Dr. Green, of the Western Union, on the Progress of Telegraphy.

EZRA CORNELL'S ONE MEAL A DAY.

The First Telegraph Line to be Laid Was Placed Under Ground.

FURNISHING NEWS FOR THE PRESS

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.)

NEW YORK, February 15. ORVIN GREEN,

the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company,

has been for 36 years identified with the construction and operation of telegraph lines.

His responsibility is un- doubtedly attached to him for the following account of the development of the telegraph system of the United States.

The first telegraphic dispatch was sent in 1844. It announced the result of the Whig convention at Baltimore, which nominated Henry Clay for President and Theodore Tilton for Vice President of the United States.

The only telegraph line then in existence extended from Washington to Annapolis Junction. A number of people who had attended the convention went on their way back to Washington, and when they stopped at Annapolis Junction, they sent a dispatch to the Capital, saying: "Clay has been nominated."

"Of course Clay has been nominated," said the people in Washington. "We knew beforehand that he would be. Your telegraph is a waste of money."

Nobody believed that transmission by telegraph was an accomplished fact. Pretty soon another dispatch was received saying "Frelinghuysen was nominated for Vice President."

FRELINGHUYSEN CONVINCED THEM. "Who is Frelinghuysen?" everybody asked. Nobody seemed to know him.

When the train reached Washington, the doubters found out that the telegraph had announced the ticket correctly. It was that incident which first gave faith in the telegraph.

The first dispatch that passed between Baltimore and Washington was sent by Prof. Morse from the former city to the President of the United States. It read: "Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth; good will to all men."

When lines were first opened from Portland, Me., to Portland, Ore., it cost \$16 to send a ten-word message between the two points. The rate is now \$1. In fact, that is the maximum rate anywhere in the country.

When Ezra Cornell opened the first telegraph office in New York, he lived on one meal a day and slept in a stable. To save money, he charged everybody who wanted to look at the instrument 10 cents. Those were precarious days for the telegraph.

From 1844 to 1858 no company made money. Rates were low and patrons were scarce. I can remember when the office at Rochester, N. Y., had to turn to the Chicago office to make up the deficiency there every month. Its gross receipts are \$75,000. It was Ezra Cornell who built the first telegraph line. He was the founder of Cornell University. Ex-Governor Alonzo B. Cornell is his son.

The first wires that were tried were copper, I think. But it was found that while they were a better conductor than iron, the wires were not strong enough. When steel collected on them they broke down. Now, however, hard copper wires are preferred, which will stand the strain. Copper wire about one-fifth the weight of iron will give the same conductivity. In other words a copper wire, weighing 180 pounds to the mile, is as good a conductor as a No. 4 iron wire weighing 750 pounds to the mile. It is only within the last six years that copper wire could be produced that was strong enough for telegraph purposes.

FIRST LINE WAS UNDERGROUND. It was a rather curious fact that when the building of the first telegraph line was begun, the wire was laid underground. Con- sideration was given to the possibility of a distance of 12 miles from the Capital, the insulation failed. Prof. Morse saw that the plan which had been adopted was a failure. Mr. Cornell had the idea of laying the wire laid, by means of a sharp pole drawn by four or five oxen. He purposely stered the pole against a rock and broke it. The new plan was adopted. Insulators were procured and the wires were strung on poles. Bladensburg, where the wire was broken, is, by the way, a historic ground, the site of a great battle place. It was there that Henry Clay and John Randolph fought. It was there also that Jonathan Cilley, of Connecticut, fell over the rifle of W. J. Graves, of Kentucky.

SERVICE OF THE PRESS. The New York Herald was the first newspaper to patronize the telegraph largely. On one occasion an important event occurred at Buffalo which the Herald wished to report fully. There was only one wire working through Buffalo and New York. The Herald correspondent filed the message, and told the operator to start in at Genesis and send until other matter was furnished to take its place. The Herald man, of course, wanted to monopolize the wire. The operator was in doubt if he ought to countenance this proceeding. He telegraphed to the superintendent for instructions. The superintendent replied that there was evidently no intention to publish the Bible, and the operator must take dispatches in good faith as they were handed in, and transmit them in their order. The trick of the Herald was a clever one, but the telegraph company could not be a confederate.

In those days the rates to newspapers were about one-half the rates for commercial messages. They are now about one-third by day and one-fourth by night for special accounts. The telegraph is now used for all news press. The messages of the several press associations are dropped at a great number of places, and for such drops the charges are one-fourth the commercial rates for day and one-eighth for night reports.

THE FIRST NEWS ORGANIZATION. The first organization for supplying news to the newspapers was conducted by D. H. Craig. His messages giving directions for the sending of news were sent first and foremost for him the title among the operators of "Dead Head Craig." The term "dead head" did not, however, originate with Mr. Craig. Mr. Craig was the first to make a specialty of foreign news. He had reporters who boarded vessels of Newfoundland and sent their news through the telegraph. The messages reached New York some four days in advance of the steamers.

It was not believed possible to use a telegraph wire for commercial messages until 1871 or 1872. Now, by the use of quadruplex instruments, four messages can be sent at once—two in each direction. Two multiplex devices have been arranged, but they are not successful. One will send eight messages each way across a room, but it will not send in sending messages between New York and Boston. The Wheatstone instrument punches messages through a sheet of paper, which is subsequently ground through the machine. The messages are written out at the point where received. The Wheatstone works with a very light current. Our lines have been working with Wheatstone instruments for nearly thirty years through 20 miles of snipe piled up ten feet above the tops of the poles. This could not be done with the Morse instruments.

OPERATORS DELIVERED THE MESSAGES. In the old days the operators delivered

THE LOTTERY SCARE.

Bessie Bramble Draws Comparisons Apropos of Dakota's Idea.

HER OPINION OF WASHINGTON.

Ridiculous Features of the Social Part of Life at the Capital.

DOINGS OF THE WEEK IN CONGRESS

(FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, February 14.—There seems to be considerable agitation among the good Sunday school politicians and others here as to the proposed lottery business in Dakota.

It is a well-known fact that the agricultural region and to raise money for public purposes. But the people there are surely not wicked beyond their fellows. Their plan as set forth is only history repeating itself.

When the country was in its infancy works and enterprises of all sorts were managed upon the lottery scheme. Even the churches and schools were built with money raised in that way, and that fact does not appear to have interfered in any perceptible manner with their prosperity and usefulness. If the subject were closely investigated, and the details carefully gone over, it might be found that lottery schemes for raising money were not so considered as dreadfully wicked as some people suppose since they have become known under other names. Churches are even in these days built in part and furnished, hospitals are supported, benevolent and philanthropic schemes of all sorts are benefited by lotteries, known under the titles of taking chances, making guesses and voting on all sorts of uncertainties and matters in which luck only is supposed to be the controlling factor. Even some of the churches in orthodox Pittsburg were built and sustained by lotteries, and yet they have prospered and grown.

RICH IN GOOD WORKS and piety. The fair and enterprises in behalf of some of the churches and hospitals with their votes and chances succeeded better in drawing dollars from close pockets than any that are managed on the plan of legitimate business, the regular sale of merchandise, as everybody is well aware. Knowing this, it is not wonderful that the poor Dakotians who see in the system of taxation for the support of their new and ambitious State a business that will strain the financial ability to the breaking point have bethought themselves of the money-drawing power of a lottery that was so successful in building up new enterprises in the early part of the century with the least burden upon the people at large.

In this great city of Washington the first hook lottery was a lottery, and the lotteries were used to encourage settlement in the District of Columbia which, while then so poor, now teem with wealth, and has become one of the great cities of the world.

To hear the doleful words of condemnation of the Constitution and the Ten Commandments, surely carefully lived up to, nor any legislation, however restrictive can prevent men or women from making fools of themselves. Moreover, as lotteries constitute a great part of what is deemed legitimate business, it is hard to see how the line can be drawn to avoid the crime and sin of betting upon chances or taking risks in stock. If it is risked for a chance of a quit or a set of silver at a fair for the benefit of a church or the support of a missionary, in what does the sin of the Dakotians differ from that of the gambler who bets on a horse race, or the speculator who bets on the stock market, or the gambler who bets on the roulette wheel, or the speculator who bets on the stock market, or the gambler who bets on the roulette wheel, or the speculator who bets on the stock market?

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RICH IN GOOD WORKS and piety. The fair and enterprises in behalf of some of the churches and hospitals with their votes and chances succeeded better in drawing dollars from close pockets than any that are managed on the plan of legitimate business, the regular sale of merchandise, as everybody is well aware. Knowing this, it is not wonderful that the poor Dakotians who see in the system of taxation for the support of their new and ambitious State a business that will strain the financial ability to the breaking point have bethought themselves of the money-drawing power of a lottery that was so successful in building up new enterprises in the early part of the century with the least burden upon the people at large.

In this great city of Washington the first hook lottery was a lottery, and the lotteries were used to encourage settlement in the District of Columbia which, while then so poor, now teem with wealth, and has become one of the great cities of the world.

To hear the doleful words of condemnation of the Constitution and the Ten Commandments, surely carefully lived up to, nor any legislation, however restrictive can prevent men or women from making fools of themselves. Moreover, as lotteries constitute a great part of what is deemed legitimate business, it is hard to see how the line can be drawn to avoid the crime and sin of betting upon chances or taking risks in stock. If it is risked for a chance of a quit or a set of silver at a fair for the benefit of a church or the support of a missionary, in what does the sin of the Dakotians differ from that of the gambler who bets on a horse race, or the speculator who bets on the stock market, or the gambler who bets on the roulette wheel, or the speculator who bets on the stock market?

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